

Message Text

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53

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 MC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /019 W

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R 271018Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0209

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1507

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TH

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TO POLICY (SHOTGUN
AMMUNITION RELOAD EQUIPMENT)

REF: (A) SECDEF, ASD:ISA(SA)/DSAA, 232312Z JAN 75;
(B) CINCPAC J836/J83, 250229Z JAN 75;
(C) CINCPAC J834/J83, 140249Z JAN 75

1. SUBJECT PROJECT WAS INCLUDED IN FY 74 MAP AND
THE THAI HAVE PROVIDED INPUT AND EXECUTED CERTIFICATE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AR795-17, BUT A FORMAL COMMITMENT
TO THE THAI HAS NOT BEEN MADE. THE SCOPE AND NATURE
OF THE PROJECT, LESS THAN \$20,000 (\$3,000 FOR PLANT
EQUIPMENT AND UP TO \$14,000 FOR SUPPLIES) WOULD NOT
APPEAR TO POSE SIGNIFICANT COMPETITION WITH US INDUSTRY.

2. DESPITE THE SMALL SCALE OF THIS PROJECT THERE ARE,
WE BELIEVE, VALID POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN FAVOR OF
ITS APPROVAL. SEVERAL RANKING OFFICIAL VISITORS TO THAILAND
HAVE EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THAI EFFORTS TOWARD SELF-
SUFFICIENCY, AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROJECTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED
IN PAST MAP PROGRAMS. DISAPPROVAL OF THE SHOTGUN RELOAD CAPA-
BILITY WOULD RAISE DOUBTS AMONG THE THAI AS TO THE SINCERITY
OF THIS COMMITMENT, HOWEVER INFORMAL IT MAY HAVE BEEN.

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3. SECOND, SHOTGUNS ARE A BASIC COMPONENT OF THE RTG VILLAGE DEFENSE CORPS (VDC) COUNTER-INSURGENCY EFFORT. WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING THE THAI IN THIS DIRECTION FOR MANY YEARS AND OUR EFFORTS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT. BUT, IN ORDER FOR THE PROGRAM TO BE SUCCESSFUL, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF RTG SUPPORT, THERE MUST BE A CONSTANT AND ECONOMICAL SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION FOR THESE LOCAL FORCES. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHOTGUN RELOAD PLANT WOULD UNDERWRITE THIS NEED AND REENFORCE THAI PERCEPTION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS COUNTER-INSURGENCY EFFORT.

4. IN VIEW OF THE NEGATIVE POLITICAL IMPACT DISAPPROVAL OF THIS SMALL PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DECISION BE REVIEWED AND APPROVAL BE GRANTED.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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